



'SHOE OF THE YEAR'
flying off shelves
See page 10...

H1N1 claims 7th in N.S.

FLU A seventh Nova Scotian has died from H1N1 as the virus continues to recede across the province.

Health officials learned yesterday morning a woman in her 40s in the capital district passed away due to H1N1. She had underlying health conditions.

The death comes despite the number of new swine flu cases decreasing for the third week in a row.

"It's very typical to see this week to two-week lag between disease activity and when you see the peak of deaths," said the province's chief medical officer Dr. Robert Strang.

"Our peak activity was two, three weeks ago. Last week we had some deaths and this week another one. It's not any indication at all that somehow the disease is becoming more severe."

There were 739 new lab-confirmed H1N1 cases last week with eight hospitalizations. Strang said enough vaccine has been sent out for 38.6 per cent of the population.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

News on the Move
What's this barcode for? Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Sports pg 16

Tiger says sorry

Go Green

Don't forget to pick up tomorrow's special Metro GO GREEN issue, covering everything you need to know about the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and everything eco!

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Holiday staple Poinsettia tending



Jim Godfrey, co-owner of Atlantic Gardens, tends to some poinsettias in Middle Sackville yesterday. With the holidays fast approaching, the colourful plant is in popular demand.

Ryan Tatton/Metro Halifax

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Perks under review

Payment for dormant committees 'indefensible': NDP

PAUL MCLEOD paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The NDP called the tradition of getting paid for committees that never meet "indefensible" yesterday and announced an independent review of MLA perks.

"I can't defend it, and I won't," Finance Minister Graham Steele proclaimed.

"Obviously it makes little sense to pay people for a committee that never meets."

The decision by the NDP comes after Metro Halifax reported Tuesday that some MLAs have been getting paid each year to chair dormant committees, including one that's been inactive since 1994. "The fact that this has been going on is some-

Tories dismissed report

- Three years ago, a report on MLA salaries by former federal minister Barbara McDougall recommended a full review of political expenses and pen-

sions. But the internal economy board, at the time dominated by the governing Tories, disregarded the recommendation and no review took place.

thing, frankly, that slips below the radar because it's been going on for so long that you kind of forget that it's actually happening," said Steele, who in the past has been a vocal critic of MLA perks.

Darrell Dexter is the latest in a long list of premiers who make \$2,060 every year to chair the Internal Affairs Committee. It hasn't met since October of 1994.

Speakers of the House



make \$3,090 annually to chair the Assembly Matters committee, which last met four-and-a-half years ago.

Speaker Charlie Parker also heads up the internal economy board, which meets behind closed doors to handle issues of MLA allowances and expenses. After a board meeting yesterday, Parker announced a review of political expenses.

"It's been a number of years since members' al-

lowances and expenses have been looked at and it's time again to have a good, thorough review," Parker said.

Parker added the review will ensure MLAs are accountable. Parker said it will include looking at payment for dormant committees and if it's incorrect, then it has to be changed.

The board hasn't determined who will conduct the review or how much it will cost. Parker said they expect to hire someone before Christmas and have the finished report within a few months.

In September, the NDP eliminated a \$45,000, no-questions-asked perk to each MLA when they leave office. In October they eliminated a yearly \$2,500-per-MLA technology fund.



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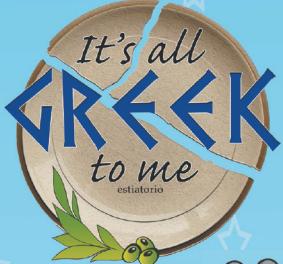
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Local



N.S. tree to be lit up in Boston

A 38-year tradition continues tonight as a 14-metre Christmas tree from Nova Scotia is lit up at the annual tree-lighting ceremony in Boston. The event takes place on the Boston Common at 8 p.m. (Halifax time) and will be televised on WCVB Boston Channel 5, an ABC affiliate. The Christmas tree is a gift to the City of Boston in recognition of the help provided in the aftermath of the Halifax Explosion on Dec. 6, 1917.

METRO HALIFAX



Vaccine clinics to open in schools

HEALTH Several new H1N1 vaccination clinics will be opening next week in area high schools.

Students and teachers can be vaccinated during the school day, and the clinics will be open to the general public during the evening.

Monday's clinics will be held at Musquodobit Rural High (3:30 to 7 p.m.), Avon View High (3:30 to 8 p.m.) and East Preston Recreation Centre (2 to 7 p.m.). For the rest of the week, clinics will be held from 4 to 8:30 p.m. at Lockview High and Prince Andrew High (Tuesday), Charles P. Allan High and Dartmouth High (Wednesday), Halifax West High and Eastern Shore District high (Thursday), and Millwood High (Friday). Cole Harbour High will host its clinic on Friday from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 2, 4, 24, 25, 47 & 48 Bonus 44
These results are not official.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

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NDP still strong: Poll

Support dips slightly, but party well ahead

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Despite some recent political gaffes, a new poll suggests support for the provincial NDP government has remained relatively stable over the past few months.

The poll, based on a sample of 808 adult Nova Scotians that was conducted between Nov. 10 and Dec. 1, was mostly good news for the Darrell Dexter government. It revealed that 53 per cent of decided voters in the province would support the NDP if an election was called tomorrow — down slightly from 60 per cent in August.

"They had reached the highest point of performance satisfaction of a government in Nova Scotia in a long time," said Don Mills, president and CEO of Corporate Research Associates, the independent firm responsible for the poll. "There's a more normal distribution of party support this time around, which is what you'd expect once a party is in power for a couple of quarters."

The poll comes on the heels of a bumpy few weeks for the government, which came under fire from the opposition over the spending practices of some of its



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Premier Darrell Dexter answers questions at a press conference last month. According to a new poll, the NDP's popularity — as well as Dexter's personal popularity — remains high.

By the numbers

- Overall support:
NDP - 53%, Liberals - 22%,
PC - 21%, Green - 4%.
- Preference for next premier of Nova Scotia:
Darrell Dexter, NDP - 44%,
Stephen McNeil, LIB - 21%,
PC, leader not determined - 12%, John Percy, Green - 4%.

ministers, and then had to admit it couldn't keep a major election promise to balance next year's provincial budget.

"That news was pretty much as bad as it could get," Mills said. "The question was how much the NDP were going to be

blamed for that budget, and it seems fairly apparent that most Nova Scotians are not holding them accountable."

Mills was quick to add, however, that the honeymoon may come to an abrupt end as the government heads into tough contract negotiations with a number of different unions over the next few months.

"They also have to put a new budget in place early in the new year," Mills said. "Many of the hard decisions are yet to come ... and time will really tell how well they're doing once they start hitting those big issues."

The poll's margin is 4.9 percentage points.

News in brief

DEATH A 76-year-old man who was struck by a car on Saturday in Halifax has died. Police say Frederick (Ted) Sandever of Dartmouth was crossing Almon Street at about 7 p.m.

when he was hit. He was transported to the QEII Health Sciences Centre, but succumbed to his injuries Tuesday night. Police are continuing their investigation, but say no charges

are expected in connection with the accident. They are asking anyone who may have had contact with Sandever on Saturday to call 490-5024.

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7 charged after cocaine bust

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CRIME After an exhaustive 10-month investigation, RCMP in Yarmouth and Digby announced yesterday they had arrested seven people suspected of trafficking cocaine in the province, including two from HRM.

"The RCMP Federal Drug Section in Yarmouth led the investigation into the drug-trafficking activities of a well-established, mid-level organized crime group operating within the Digby and Annapolis County areas," RCMP Supt. Brian Brennan said in a release issued yesterday.

Several police units, including the Integrated Border Enforcement team, the Integrated Proceeds of Crime team, and the Digby Street Crime Unit, participated in the investigation.

The arrests were made in Digby and Halifax.

Hope MacKenzie (Dartmouth, 29) Jeffrey Tynes, (Cole Harbour, 31), Mark Melanson (Digby Co., 42), Joanne LeBlanc (Digby Co., 27), Carla Calnek, (Annapolis Co., 43), Albert Plehn (Annapolis Co., 36) and Troy Melanson (Marshalltown, 35), are each facing a number of drug-related charges, including conspiracy to traffic cocaine, trafficking of cocaine and possession of cocaine.

"Today's police actions will have a direct impact on the reduction of the drug supply in our community," said Staff Sgt. Phil Barrett, commander of the Digby detachment of the RCMP, in the release.

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Two people are facing drug charges after police searched a home in Fairview Tuesday night and uncovered quantities of crack cocaine, marijuana, and ecstasy. Police say a 25-year-old man and a 30-year-old woman were arrested at the residence on Main Avenue shortly after 9:30 p.m. METRO HALIFAX

Two arrested in drug bust

Parties, jam sessions and 8 nominations excite Plaskett

ALY THOMSON
for Metro Halifax



Late night jams, parties, and hotel hallway conversations are the reasons Halifax's Joel Plaskett is excited about the 2010 East Coast Music Awards – aside from his eight nominations.

Plaskett picked up eight "of the year's" including entertainer, solo recording, recording, songwriter, video, pop recording, and two group single nominations for You Let Me Down and Through and Through and Through.

"I'm really glad people are giving it the time of day," he said modestly, referring to his latest album Three, which dropped in March.

In 2008 at the ECMA's, Plaskett won seven



awards for Ashtray Rock. Last year, he picked up one for entertainer of the year, a category he is particularly fond of.

"That category is really great because it makes you feel like 'oh, I'm entertaining people' you know? That's what playing music is," he said after

"I haven't been able to absorbed everything that's going on just because I'm in it."

Joel Plaskett, left

cracking a joke about being nominated for best "old" artist.

Plaskett is nominated in the same category as Dave Marsh for solo recording, who plays drums in the Joel Plaskett Emergency. He says the ECMA's aren't about the awards — they're an excuse to get everyone in the same place for a weekend.

"It's testament to the fact that the ECMA's are as much about cre-

ating a sense of community as it is giving out awards."

Plaskett has had a "blurry"

year. He released a 27-track album in March, played for the McCartney crowd in July and recently won two Canadian Folk Music Awards.

"I haven't been able to absorbed everything that's going on just because I'm in it," said Plaskett, adding he hoped people weren't sick of him around here.

Plaskett said he's overjoyed people have been receptive to the album, and said he's "working my ass off."

Halifax's In-Flight Safety and Enfield's Classified each picked up six nominations to finish with the next highest selections.

Dave Gunning of Pictou County received three nominations.

East Coast Music Award nominations

The 2010 ECMA's take place in Sydney from March 4 to 7.

- Entertainer of the Year: Classified; David Carroll; David Myles; Gypsophila; In-Flight Safety; Joel Plaskett; The Divorcees.

- Female Solo Recording of the Year: Amelia Curran — Hunter, Hunter; Classified — Self-Explanatory; Chris Kirby — Vampire Hotel; Dave Gunning — We're All Leaving; Duane Andrews — Raindrops; Jenn Grant - Echoes; Joel Plaskett — Three.

METRO HALIFAX

Classified

- Group Recording of the Year: Caledonia — We Are America; In-Flight Safety — We Are an Empire, My Dear; Madison Violet — No Fool for Trying; The Motroleague — Black Noise; The Novaks — Things Fall Apart; Two Hours Traffic — Territory.

- Male Solo Recording of the Year: Chris Kirby — Vampire Hotel; Classified — Self-Explanatory; Dave Gunning — We're All Leaving; Dave Marsh — The True Love Rules; Joel Plaskett — Three; Lennie Gallant —



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The HRM household hazardous waste depot in Bayers Lake Business Park will be closed Saturday as the facility is carrying out major renovations and updating its blue bag processing line at the recycling plant. The renovation project should be completed by Monday. METRO HALIFAX

Lobsters seized in fishery sweep

CRIME It's early in the Nova Scotia lobster fishery but already there are allegations of illegal activity.

Fishery officers from Digby were busy Tuesday night on the first hauling day of the lobster season.

An inspection of a vessel in Freeport resulted in a large seizure of alleged undersized lobster.

Alleged undersized lobsters were also seized after an inspection of a vessel in Sandy Cove.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slippery highways spark 15 crashes

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DRIVING Drivers were slip, sliding away on some highways yesterday morning.

Halifax RCMP said slick roads caused 15 collisions. Most of the crashes took place on Highway 102, 118 and Lower Sackville areas.

There were no injuries. "It was kind of deceiving

— it looked nice out in some areas," said Halifax RCMP's Cpl. Joe Taplin.

"Drivers were probably lulled into a false sense of security," Taplin added.

The RCMP reminds people caution is now needed on the roads and highways.

"If there is frost on your windows, there's frost on the road," Taplin warned.



RUSSELL TAYLOR/HAMBERT DAILY NEWS

Thomas Orland Wade Hunter, 20, covers his face as he leaves the Maritime Block offices after being released on bail yesterday afternoon.

Tot hurt, man charged

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A 20-year-old Cumberland County man is facing charges of aggravated assault after a four-month-old infant was admitted to hospital last week with life-threatening injuries.

Police say Thomas Orland Wade Hunter was arrested and charged Monday, and appeared in Amherst Provincial Court.

According to Sgt. John Berry of the Cumberland

County RCMP, police received a call from Child and Family Services on Nov. 23 telling them a baby had been admitted with "injuries that were suspicious in nature."

"I assume the child was viewed by medical staff and they contacted Child and Family Services, who in turn called us," Berry explained.

Due to privacy concerns, police are not releasing any further details about the infant or the nature of the injuries.

The infant remained in the IWK Health Centre in Halifax yesterday and is reported to be in stable condition, Berry said.

During his show-cause hearing yesterday, Hunter was released on conditions — he's to live with his mother in Sackville, N.B., and he's not to be alone with a child under the age of 14 years.

Hunter's next scheduled court appearance is on Jan. 18.

WITH FILES FROM
THE AMHERST DAILY NEWS

NSGEU signs up support staff at St. FX university

LABOUR Support staff at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish have become the newest members of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.

The NSGEU was certified

as the bargaining agent by the Nova Scotia Labour Relations Board after a certification vote in October.

The 151 members of the bargaining unit include clerical and administrative staff, technical employees,

non-professional workers in the university library, and one custodian.

Union president Joan Jesome says work will begin immediately negotiating the first contract.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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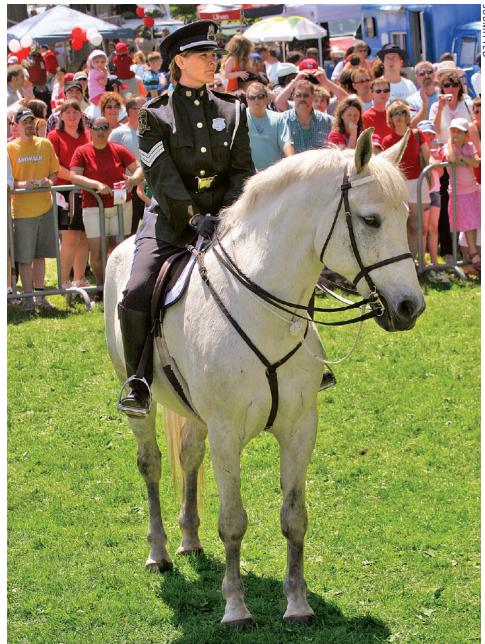
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SUBMITTED

Justice the Protector, a Halifax police horse, is ridden by Sgt. Julia Cecchetto at his retirement event in 2006. Justice died last month at the age of 23.

Police horse passes away

ALY THOMSON
for Metro Halifax



He acted on TV, participated in community fundraisers, and sometimes enjoyed a cool McDonald's ice cream treat.

Halifax Regional Police are mourning the loss of one of their own — Justice the Protector, a retired police horse, died at the age of 23 last month due to health complications.

Justice patrolled the streets of downtown Halifax from 1993 to 2006 and helped five different riders issue tickets under the Liquor Control Act and Motor Vehicle Act, a HRP release said yesterday.

He was also regularly in-

volved in community events, made appearances on Court TV, Careers Television and Beyond the Badge, and was famously photographed licking an ice cream cone at a McDonald's drive thru.

Justice was retired on July 1, 2006 at the Halifax Regional Municipality's Canada Day celebration and retired to an adopted family.

"We're saddened of Justice's passing," police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said. "He was a very important part of our organization. He will be missed."

The HRP currently has two horses, Duty Sergeant and Patrol Cruiser, that are used extensively in the downtown core.

Minor injuries after car hits school bus

ACCIDENT There were several minor injuries after a car rear-ended a school bus in Glenholme, Colchester Co. yesterday morning.

Police said the crash occurred around 8:40 a.m. on Highway 2 near Little Dyke Road, when a car travelling towards Truro couldn't slow down quick enough and hit a bus stopped with 20 kids inside.

"We're extremely fortunate ... that someone wasn't hurt," said Sgt. Al Afleck of the Colchester County RCMP.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Officers honoured for heroic acts

CEREMONY Two Nova Scotia RCMP officers were honoured at Pier 21 in Halifax yesterday.

Const. Edward Clarke was awarded the Commanding Officer's Commendation for Bravery while Cpl. Lise Hamel was presented the St. John Ambulance Life Saving Award and Pin.

On Aug. 2, 2008, Clarke was working at the Enfield detachment and saw

Investigators recognized

- Also yesterday at Pier 21, seven RCMP officers and two Bridgewater police officers received the Commanding Officers Certificate for Outstanding Service for their work in the investigation of the murder of 12-year-old Karissa Boudreau.

an injured person lying on the road on Highway 102 near Exit 7. Clarke, who was off duty, stopped and began applying first aid, but poor visibility re-

sulted in an on-coming tractor trailer barreling towards them. Clarke was able to move himself and the victim out of the tractor's path just in time.

As for Hamel, her heroic efforts took place on Nov. 16, 2005. She was visiting an elementary school in Dartmouth and noticed a child beginning to choke.

She immediately assisted and quickly administered abdominal thrusts, which resulted in an object being dislodged and the boy being able to breathe again.

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8 local

And the bride wore black ...

Sister-in-law guilty of mischief

It was supposed to be a quick bathroom break at the local Tim Hortons before the bride-to-be walked down the aisle.

But Nancy Rose knew her big day was about to turn ugly when she spotted an enraged woman in a tube top racing toward her, a can of spray-paint in her hand.

As members of the wedding party watched in disbelief, her sister-in-law began dousing the young bride with black paint. Crown lawyer beaded gown Jennifer MacLellan and veil with sooty stains.

"I was blown away — I think I went into shock for a few minutes," Rose, who didn't want to disclose her location outside of Nova Scotia, said yesterday after her assailant was sentenced.

"I felt myself shaking and crying, but I managed to make it to the church."

Rose's limousine driver jumped in to help, pinning Michelle King against the car as the wedding party of cousins and a sister looked on.

When the driver tried to restrain her, King's tube top fell down, exposing her breasts but giving her a chance to flee.

King, who is married to Rose's brother, was given a

conditional discharge Tuesday in Halifax after pleading guilty to mischief charges stemming from the incident in July 2008.

Crown lawyer Jennifer MacLellan wouldn't comment on the sentence, but said she hasn't seen a case quite like this before.

"This is unusual," she said. "You don't get spray-painted brides every day."

Rose, 35, said the family turmoil began at her brother and King's wedding in 2007 after a dispute ensued over a bridesmaid's dress to be worn by Rose's young daughter.

A provincial court judge has ordered King to undergo anger management counselling, not have any contact with Rose and pay \$2,000 in restitution to Rose.

Still, Rose said the punishment does little to blunt the pain caused by the bizarre confrontation.

"The \$2,000 don't pay for the depression and the anger inside," she said, adding that she has yet to print her wedding photos for fear she might see paint.

"To ruin my wedding day, you can't put a price tag on that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. businesses give thumbs up: Report

Independently owned businesses in Nova Scotia are saying the overall state of business in the province is good, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

The CFIB released its latest barometer index yesterday which shows 40 per cent of businesses proclaiming that business is booming, and another 43 per cent stating it is satisfactory.

The results are based on a national monthly business barometer index that measures business expectations among small and medium sized businesses.

Results are based on a scale between 0 and 100. Nova Scotia is on par with the national average at 68.4, which is consistent with October results.

According to past results, index levels normally range between 65 and 75 when the economy is growing.

Only eight per cent of businesses plan to cut employees in the next few months across the province, which is below the national average of 19 per cent.

METRO HALIFAX

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Church-based group loses federal fundingKairos, a Canadian church-based group that does human rights and environmental sustainability work, says the federal government has cancelled its funding. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

NDP accuses Tories of censoring Afghan docs

National security used as cover, MP says

The Conservative government has used national security to justify the removal of references to "extrajudicial executions" and "torture" in reports on Afghanistan, says NDP MP Paul Dewar.

The government is set to release to a House of Commons committee a large volume of censored documents relating to the treatment of Afghan detainees.

Conservative ministers have said the documents had to be censored for national security reasons before they could be released to opposition MPs and the public.

But the NDP says it has

Red Cross torture worries?

- The International Red Cross met twice with senior Canadian officials in Kandahar to deliver veiled but insistent warnings about torture in Afghan jails a year before Canada acted to protect detainees. Details of the face-to-face meetings in 2006, outlined in uncensored memos examined by

The Canadian Press, undermine the federal government's claims that diplomat Richard Colvin was a lone voice raising vague concerns about torture. A spokesman for the International Red Cross played down the face-to-face sessions with Canadian officials.

an uncensored version of one report and comparing the two, has found that the "national security" deletions include the line: "Extrajudicial executions, disappearances, torture and detention without trial are all too common."

"By redacting just that one sentence, the government was able to cover up knowledge of extrajudicial killings and torture in Afghanistan," Dewar said, citing this as an example of overzealous censorship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Google Street View adds nine Canadian cities

PHOTOS Another nine Canadian cities can now be toured virtually through Google Street View.

Victoria, Nanaimo, B.C., Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Ont., London, Ont., Sherbrooke, Que., and St. John's, N.L., are among the more than 20 Canadian cities that were photographed for the Google feature.

Users can search for an address in those cities and see a 360-degree view of the streets.

The other Canadian cities in Street View are Vancouver, Whistler, Squamish, B.C., Banff, Alta., Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Ont., Waterloo, Ont., Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper says 97% of stimulus funds committed

BEIJING Stephen Harper travelled half-way around the world, but couldn't leave Canadian politics behind, choosing China to unveil the government's fourth economic stimulus report card — a status update the Liberals dismissed as misleading.

The prime minister land-



Jim Flaherty, minister of finance, speaks at the University of Winnipeg yesterday. He said the government is on track to create or maintain 220,000 jobs this year and next as part of its overall economic plan.

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Ottawa's economic update boasts of success on infrastructure and job creation, but how the Tories reached their numbers is a mystery. Scan this barcode for the full story.

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CN Rail and the Teamsters union have reached a deal to end a strike by locomotive engineers which began Saturday. The 1,700 engineers, members of the Teamsters Canadian Rail Conference, have been without a contract for almost a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Neighbours worried about NB Power deal

Dexter says he is protecting province's future

The premiers of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have renewed their battle with New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham over the proposed sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec.

Darrell Dexter and Danny Williams have written a letter to Graham making two requests.

They want Graham to finalize an agreement prior to completing the NB Power sale that would see New Brunswick build a transmission line to the Maine border, separate from the power grid that currently exists.

They also want Graham to ensure that applications to transmit power through New Brunswick will be handled under existing rules until agreements are offered to Newfoundland's energy company or other Atlantic companies before the NB



Danny Williams

Power sale is complete.

Williams says he does not believe in Graham's past assertions that Newfoundland or other provinces don't need written guarantees to ship power through New Brunswick to the United States in the future.

"The previous statements made by the premier of New Brunswick

are not sufficient to give us confidence that reliable open access will be available across New Brunswick to the Maine border after the deal with Quebec is consummated," Williams said in a joint statement with Dexter yesterday.

"This situation requires clear and explicit clarification and certainty."

Dexter said he and Williams were looking out for Atlantic Canada's future interests.

"We are seeking assurances that the best interests of Nova Scotia and the best opportunities for our region are protected," Dexter said.

But New Brunswick's energy minister said it's just a lot of political posturing.

"It's absolute smoke," Jack Keir said in an interview last night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report calls for more family docs

HEALTH Increasing the number of practising physicians is key to reaching a goal that would see nearly all Canadians with their own family doctor by 2012, according to a new report.

The report, entitled *The Wait Starts Here*, was released yesterday by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Canadian Medical Association, who formed the Primary Care Wait Time Partnership to explore these issues.

The partnership's goal is for 95 per cent of Canadians in all communities to have their own family doctor within the next two years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

KAZEMI The Iranian government defended itself through a Montreal law firm in a \$17-million civil suit launched by the estate and family of Montreal photojournalist Zahra Kazemi over her detention, torture and slaying. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Microsoft releases updated Bing Maps service

Microsoft Corp. is releasing an updated version of its mapping service with street-level views and new "apps" that tack on tweets, traffic and other location-specific data. The new version of Bing Maps was released yesterday in a "beta" test mode. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World

India 25th anniversary of gas disaster



A victim of the Bhopal gas disaster shouts during a torch procession towards the abandoned Union Carbide factory on the eve of 25th anniversary of the disaster, in Bhopal, India yesterday. The Bhopal industrial disaster killed about 4,000 people on Dec. 3, 1984. According to the government, at least 500,000 people were affected by the gas leak.

Lawyer for student accused of murder breaks down in court

PERUGIA A defence lawyer for an American student accused of killing her British roommate broke down after urging the court to give his client back her life. But a prosecutor called the accused a compressed spring who exploded the night of the murder.



"Amanda is asking to have her life back. Give Amanda her life back by clearing her of all charges," Ghirga said, fighting back tears at the end of his emotional three-hour concluding argument.

Lead prosecutor Giuliano Mignini said Knox lashed out at Kercher on the night of the murder for having complained about her promiscuous behaviour.

A verdict by the eight-member jury is expected by the end of the week.

Kercher's body was found Nov. 2, 2007, in the apartment she shared with Knox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amanda Knox and her former Knox boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito are being tried in Perugia for the 2007 slaying of Meredith Kercher. They deny wrongdoing.

Luciano Ghirga, one of Knox's defence lawyers, insisted in court that Knox was the victim of a "mechanism that crushed her."

Palestinian man run over on video

INJURIES A Jewish settler could face criminal charges after he was filmed repeatedly driving his car over a Palestinian man who had stabbed the Israeli's wife in a West Bank settlement, police said yesterday.

The knife and axe-wielding Palestinian wounded two people in the settlement of Kiryat Arba last Thursday before being shot and wounded by a

civilian security guard and an off-duty Israeli soldier, police said.

The amateur video showed a silver Mercedes driving over the Palestinian, who was lying on the ground after he was shot. The car ran him over several times and stopped with a tire on top of him.

The Palestinian man is in serious but stable condition, officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Party crashers not invited: Emails

Copies of emails between the White House party crashers and a Pentagon official undermine their claims that they were invited to U.S. President Barack Obama's first state dinner. Tareq and Michaela Salahi pressed the friendly Pentagon aide for four days to score tickets to the big event in honour of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. By their own admission in the emails, they showed up at the White House gates at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 without an invitation. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Taliban rebuff troop surge in Afghanistan

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Mixed reaction

- Reaction among Afghans and U.S. soldiers was mixed, with many wondering whether the Afghan government can fight both corruption and the insurgents, and whether the surge means more Afghan civilians will die.

"no solution for the problems of Afghanistan" and would give insurgents an opportunity "to increase their attacks and shake the American economy, which is already facing crisis."

If conditions are right, Obama said U.S. forces could begin leaving Afghanistan in 18 months. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in the country, said the Afghan government and its international partners should use the coming year-and-a-half to convince the Taliban they can't win and offer militants a way to quit the insurgency "with dignity."

In a statement, the Taliban said the Obama administration's plan was

"This stratagem will not pay off," it said, adding the surge will lead to increased deaths of U.S. troops.

More than 850 U.S. military members have died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Billionaire's body back with family

A coffin containing the body of an Austrian billionaire has been returned to his family, more than a year after it was stolen from a graveyard by thieves who blackmailed the relatives for \$150,000, police said yesterday.

It also emerged criminals from Hungary and Romania were involved in the crime, and that private investigators and security companies had been involved in the search for the coffin without telling police.

"This is a large case of blackmail that was carried

out very professionally, although it involved a rather unusual instrument — a coffin," said Ernst Geiger, the organized crime chief at Austria's equivalent of the FBI.

The remains of Austrian billionaire Friedrich Karl Flick were stolen from a

cemetery in Velden, southern Austria, in November 2008. Flick had died two years earlier at a time when Forbes magazine said he was among the 100 richest people in the world.

The coffin and body were returned to Flick's relatives Tuesday, said family spokesman Joerg-Andreas Lohr.

Budapest police chief Gabor Toth told reporters that private detectives hired by the Flick family had found the coffin last month in Budapest, even as the police in Hungary and Austria were still investigating the crime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aaron Fergusson
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Babysitter receives 125 years in prison

COURTS A U.S. babysitter convicted of videotaping herself performing sex acts with children as young as two months old has been sentenced to 125 years in prison.

Samantha Light last month pleaded guilty to three felony counts of child molesting in circuit court in Indiana.

During sentencing yesterday, the 26-year-old Light apologized and said she had been coerced by her boyfriend.

She said while she appeared happy on the video tape she had felt like she "was dying inside."

Light and her boyfriend, Stephen E. Quick II, have been jailed since March after a three-year-old girl told her mother she had been touched inappropriately by her babysitter and that the couple had taken photographs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scammers used MJ, H1N1: Study

ONLINE USAGE A year-end study suggests spammers used the economy, swine flu, the death of Michael Jackson and hype over Twitter to lure victims into scams.

Symantec, a maker of computer security software, says it analyzed more than 40 trillion spam messages in the last 12 months. That averages out to 5,000 for every person in the world.

Spammers also frequently tried to dupe Internet users with email subject lines about health care, promises of free Harry Potter e-books, car discounts, diplomas, and Halloween costume tips.

The celebrities most cited by spammers in their scams were Jackson and Serena Williams.

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Comment

Drawing battle lines

It can be a tricky situation, hating the partner of a friend

Relating

Sofi Papamarko

One of my superpowers is that I am an excellent judge of character. It doesn't take long for me to decipher whether someone is a good-hearted and decent soul or if they should be avoided at all costs. This is as true for potential friends as it is for potential dates.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares this superpower. And sometimes, wonderful people get romantically involved with the deeply unworthy. Over the years, I have regrettably had several pals pair up with arrogant, ignorant, ambition-free jerk

festivals.

It's a tricky position to be in, hating the partner of a friend. Faking enthusiasm and friendliness when you're forced to share the same airspace gets old. It's not easy biting your tongue until it bleeds.

Several years ago, I met a close friend's boyfriend for the first time. He picked us up in his car and promptly sparked a joint behind the wheel. He later yelled at an elderly relative, accusing her of stealing his liquor.

It was a banner Friday night.

My friend is no longer with this boy.

This was a decision she made on her own. It was not influenced by the fact that her family/friends were clearly not fans.

When people fall in love, the flaws of their partners tend to be muted because they are thoroughly wrapped up in a magical world of puppies and kittens and butterflies and red velvet cupcakes and baby birds made out of marzipan.

It's a huge risk to let a friend know that you don't approve of their significant other. For some, anyone who does not love their lover becomes The Enemy. Logic and emotion are like oil and water. Speaking up about your reservations is a quick and

easy way to make a friendship super awkward. Or end it.

For some, dating some-one sub-par is preferable to being single. It's like a sad game of musical chairs; people scrambling to grab the nearest available chair, utterly terrified of being the one left standing.

But those with strong senses of self are fine to stand for a few rounds. Why rush to sit in a crappy chair that will give you splinters and quite possibly collapse?

If your particular "chair" is the product of shoddy craftsmanship, chuck it to the curb. Because somewhere, there is a kick-ass heated orthopedic chair with a built-in massage mechanism and a lifetime guarantee that's got your name on it.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Divorce sucks – but it doesn't have to

ModernLife

Georgie Binks

I remember years ago a very wise man telling me, "Divorce is all some people have to look forward to."

At the time, I thought divorce was sad. It was also before I'd been married and divorced. The actual truth about divorce as Mary Jo Eustace, author of *Divorce Sucks*, whose husband (Dean somebody) was stolen away by actress Tori Spelling, knows is that it can be the best

thing to happen to you.

I originally picked up her book hoping it would be a dirt-filled slag-fest and I could feed my inner gossip, which would in turn feed my outer one. No bitter pill in Eustace's book though. Rather, a hilarious guide helping divorced — specifically, dumped — women get through the trauma, or as Eustace calls it, a "tsunami" of divorce. This is the pep talk they need, not therapists enabling the moaning and groaning for years.

Eustace was initially caught off guard when her husband de-camped. In retrospect she realized divorce had been imminent when she examined her marriage. That's what happens when most of us do.

Husband not interested in sex? He hates you. You cringe at the sound of him breathing or eating cereal. You hate him.

However, some people don't have the guts to pull the plug. When women like Spelling come along, they do us a favour. What you get is to be yourself again and a second chance at life. As Eustace says, it's a "reintroduction to yourself." In other words, it's psychological botox, a good hair day and a laxative that actually works, all rolled up in one.

While Eustace was unfortunate enough to have her story told in all the gossip magazines and on TV, she was also lucky enough to get divorced in six months — which could

never happen in Canada.

She encourages women to depend on themselves, which means establishing fair custody and child support as well as sticking up for themselves in terms of spousal support. She reminds women to run their personal lives as businesses of which they are now the CEO.

And, finally, she counsels them to enjoy themselves. If marriage is a lifetime commitment (or for some a life sentence) but you got fired, embrace your new life. Says Eustace, "You're no longer on a day pass. This is your life and you're in charge."

Georgie Binks is a Toronto freelance writer who writes about gender and relationships; georgiebinks@rogers.com



Worth mentioning

Bill is out of this world in search of space aliens

A former Arizona school district employee is accused of using school computers in an experiment to find space aliens, costing the worker his job and the district more than \$1 million.

School officials say that Brad Niesluchowski, who was Higley Unified School District's information technology director, downloaded free software on district computers in 2000.

The program, known as SETI@home, uses Internet rooms.

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Supt. Denise Birdwell said it will take more than \$1 million to fix the problem, including removal of the SETI software. She says police are conducting a broader investigation.

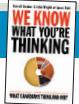
Niesluchowski resigned from the district Oct. 22. His lawyer did not return calls for comment.

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Canadian Tire money is getting a new coin. The famous multicoloured bills, considered by many as the country's unofficial second currency, is to be joined by the \$1 piece for a limited time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

'Tiger Inc.' doing fine so far

While a shadow has been cast over Woods' empire, his sponsorships remain

He is Tiger Inc. Hear him roar.

Multimillion-dollar contracts. An estimated \$100 million in endorsements per year. More than \$92 million from PGA tournament wins. Ballooning PGA ticket sales and TV viewership.

Tiger Woods was, until now at least, a thoroughly unpolarizing sponge for corporate money who, according to Forbes magazine, is the first billion-dollar pro athlete in history.

The mysterious middle-of-the-night SUV crash last week has cast a shadow over this empire. And revealing yet vague confessions of "personal sins" and "letting my family down" have only fuelled interest in his private drama. Yet, so far at least, Woods's financial future remains unshak-

"He is arguably the most famous and attractive celebrity endorser in the world today."

Marc Ganis,
Sportscorp

en. Although he may have bogeyed this crisis, his value to the world of pro golf remains immense, as shown by the near-universal anxiety over how long he will be out of commission. So far, at least, his many sponsors, including Nike, Gillette and Gatorade, are standing by him.

"None have left him. I don't expect any to leave him. I don't expect it to adversely affect any deals he may be negotiating," said



Tiger Woods, right, and his wife, Elin Nordegren.

Marc Ganis, president of Sportscorp, a sports business consulting firm. "He is arguably the most famous and attractive celebrity endorser in the world today. This incident has tarnished (that) only a bit."

Of course, sports marketing experts were cautious enough to note that the sto-

ry, hitherto vague, could shift and become more lurid and embarrassing as details emerge.

"Things probably will change, as this story continues to be played out," said Rick Burton, a professor at Syracuse University who specializes in sports marketing.

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Google makes concession to appease angry media industry

INTERNET Google Inc. is allowing publishers of paid content to limit the number of free news articles accessed by people using its Internet search engine, a concession to an increasingly disgruntled media industry.

senior business product manager, said the company had updated its First Click Free program so publishers can limit users to viewing no more than five articles a day without registering or subscribing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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North America's economic recovery gains traction after big jumps in consumer spending and factory production. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Business in brief

ENERGY Talisman Energy Inc., a Calgary-based company that produces oil and gas around the globe, is laying off 220 workers in its North American

natural gas business. A spokeswoman said the job losses amount to 15 per cent of the company's North American workforce. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Upshaw nabs CIS weekly honour

Halifax's Christian Upshaw has been named Canadian Interuniversity Sport's male athlete of the week. The fourth-year basketball guard scored 53 points on the weekend as his St. F.X. X-Men cruised into the holidays at 6-0. **METRO HALIFAX**

15

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA

**Roy to try out**

Cape Breton Screaming Eagles goaltender Olivier Roy has been named to the Canadian world junior team's selection camp roster and will compete for a job from Dec. 12 to 16 in Regina. **METRO HALIFAX**

Spare part no more

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



The QMJHL doesn't keep track of ice time, but if it did, Paul Dimitruk figures his has tripled lately.

The 19-year-old has gone from spare part with the Moncton Wildcats to top-four defenceman with the Halifax Mooseheads after being plucked off waivers on Oct. 15.

Dimitruk figures he averages up to 30 minutes a night in Halifax. In Moncton, he didn't see more than 10.

"I'm getting a ton more opportunities out there and it's great for me, great for my game," Dimitruk said. "My poise has come a long way. I'm not panicking with the puck like I



Paul Dimitruk

used to ... It's helped me get into the flow of the game."

The six-foot-one 189-pounder actually asked to be put on waivers after his role with the Wildcats diminished. He was playing behind NHL draft choices Mark Barberio and David Savard, highly-touted 2010 draft prospect Brandon Gormley, and rock-solid Simon Jodoin. He wasn't keen on waiting two months until the holiday trade period to find a new home.

Knowing the Herd had first crack at players on waivers, Wildcats head coach and general manager Danny Flynn effectively traded the Andover, Mass., native to Halifax.

Tonight

- The last-place Halifax Mooseheads, 5-22-2, will look to snap a five-game losing streak when they face the Gatineau Olympiques, 15-10-3, tonight at 7 p.m. at the Metro Centre.

Although he went from a contender to a club that has been in last place since Day 1, Dimitruk is thrilled. "Coming here was probably the best thing for my career," he said.

Dimitruk has just one assist in 17 games but has been a solid contributor with and without the puck. He moves the puck quickly and safely and his minus-1 rating — one of the best on the team — is evidence of his solid de-

sive game.

"I've stepped up my hitting a lot," Dimitruk said. "I've kind of been nasty in front of the net and I'm trying to take away passing lanes with my stick and break plays up 1-on-1."

On a team with four 17-year-olds on an emerging defence corps, Dimitruk has provided a stabilizing presence.

"I'm trying to be a good leader, a good role model for these kids, and help this team win games," he said.

m.metronews.ca



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AUS Eyes on the puck!

Saint Mary's Huskies forward Brad Smith and St. Francis Xavier X-Men goalie Joseph Perricone watch the puck sail wide of the net during last night's Atlantic University Sport men's hockey game at the Forum. The Huskies won 4-1 to improve their third-place record to 9-3-2.

Rainmen cut Weaver loose

BASKETBALL The Halifax Rainmen have cut loose their top selection in the Premier Basketball League draft.

The Rainmen confirmed yesterday they will terminate the contract of Omar Weaver, who was selected sixth overall in October's draft.

The six-foot-eight guard/forward is a veteran pro who has three years worth of experience in the PBL.

Weaver, from Washington, was having trouble gaining entry to Canada and the Rainmen didn't want to wait.

"We really needed him," Rainmen owner Andre Levingston said.

"He's a very exciting kid and we were excited to have him but we have to go with what we have here."

Kendel Provet, a guard from New York, will also have his contract terminated.

Levingston said he is hoping to announce two new arrivals today, a six-foot-10 centre and a six-foot-nine forward to join the 15 players at training camp in Yarmouth this week.

MATTHEW WUEST/
METRO HALIFAX

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16 sports



Allen Iverson is rejoining the Philadelphia 76ers. Sixers president Ed Stefanski announced the signing yesterday on the team's website. Iverson is expected to make his debut Monday at home against the Denver Nuggets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woods admits to 'transgressions'

Statement after waitress claims affair with golfer

Tiger Woods said he let his family down with "transgressions" he regrets "with all of my heart," and that he will deal with his personal life behind closed doors.

His statement yesterday follows a cover story in US Weekly magazine that reports a Los Angeles cocktail waitress claims she had a 31-month affair with the world's No. 1 golfer.

"I have not been true to my values and the behaviour my family deserves," Woods said on his website. "I am not without faults and I am far short of perfect. I am dealing with my behaviour and personal failings behind closed doors with my family. Those feelings should be shared by us alone."

Woods did not offer details of any alleged relationship.

The cocktail waitress,



The Dec. 14 issue of US Weekly.

Jaimee Grubbs, told the magazine she met Woods at a Las Vegas nightclub the week after the 2007 Masters — two months before Woods' wife, Elin, gave birth to their first child. Grubbs claims to have proof in 300 text messages.

About three hours before Woods' statement, the magazine published what it said was a voice-

mail — provided by Grubbs — that Woods left on her phone on Nov. 24, three days before his middle-of-the-night car crash outside his home in Florida.

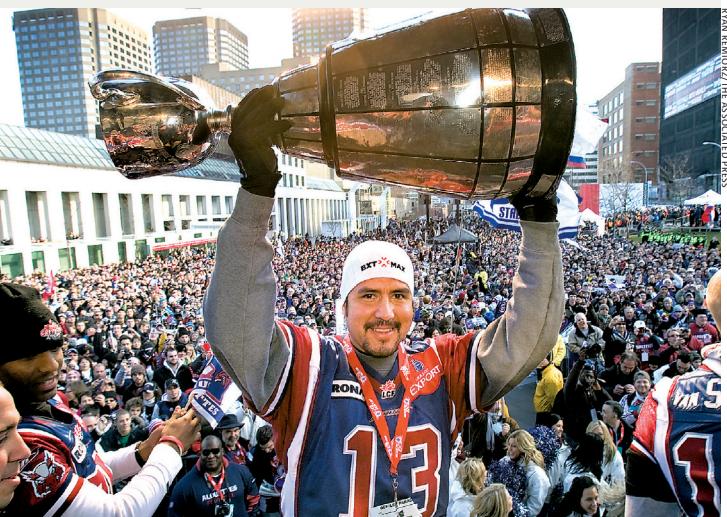
"I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart," he said in the statement.

"I will strive to be a better person and the husband and father that my family deserves," Woods said. "For all of those who have supported me over the years, I offer my profound apology."

Woods has been subjected to more media scrutiny over the last week than when he first won the Masters in 1997 and set off the first wave of Tigermania. He has spoken only three times through his website, although this was his longest posting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal Cheers for champs



Montreal Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo holds up the Grey Cup for the fans yesterday during a victory parade in Montreal. Tens of thousands of people swarmed the city's downtown streets. Chants of "Ole-Ole-Ole!" rang out from crowds that engulfed the city's core as Montrealers spent their lunch hour cheering on the Grey Cup champions.

RYAN REME/ZUMA PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Boston 4 Tampa Bay 1
Florida 6 Colorado 5 (SO)
Minnesota 5 Nashville 4 (OT)

NBA

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Dallas 117 New Jersey 101
Memphis 97 Minnesota 95
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HOLIDAY

Shopping Guide

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Get your music on

These MP3-related gifts will keep the beat going

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

The Sirius Stiletto 2 satellite radio, below, streams music from more than 120 channels.

You love having your music at your fingertips' reach, so here are some of Metro's picks for MP3-related gizmos that will keep the beat going this holiday season:

Sirius Stiletto 2 satellite radio & MP3 player
\$299.95 + subscription fee

Combining the portable practicality of an MP3 player with the vast possibilities of satellite radio, the Sirius Stiletto 2 is one heck of a cool gadget. The small and sleek player streams music from more than 120 commercial-free music channels broadcast by Sirius' satellites and can even record up to 100 hours of content so you can listen to your favourite channel or commentator when you have time (or aren't in the office when the censor-free commentary starts to fly).

Nokia 5800 XpressMusic Smartphone & MP3 player
\$199.99 on select three-year plans with Rogers

While it's technically a phone first, the Nokia

Stiletto also plays MP3s and WMA files so you can keep your music collection with you for those times you just have to hear We Are The Champions one more time. An optional home and car dock can be picked up for the player as well.

For people already subscribed to Sirius, the Stiletto 2 is a no-brainer and for the rest, it makes a very solid case for jumping on the bandwagon.

5800 XpressMusic is so well geared towards playing music that it outshines a large number of MP3-only players on the market. The built-in stereo speakers that provide surprisingly good — and loud — external sound should be the first tip-off that this gadget is a lot more than your average MP3-capable phone. The 5800 features a touch screen and memory capacity for MicroSD cards up to 16 gigabytes in size, plenty of space to load up on your favourite songs. Nokia has purportedly shipped almost 10 million of these things in the year since it came out and with good reason — it's a great music player with unique appeal that still works as a solid phone.

Panasonic Ergofit Noise Isolating Earbuds

Earbud headphones are one of the hardest components to get right because fit, sound quality and

These Panasonic Ergofit Noise Isolating Earbuds are available in three sizes and come in a variety of colours, including blue, green and purple.



Give the ultimate gift of music this season — music lessons! Call for details.



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long-mcquade.com



The Pioneer iPod Digital Video System is \$499, while the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic Smartphone and MP3 Player, below left, is \$199.99.

price always seem to trample over each other along the way. That's what makes the Panasonic Ergofit Noise Isolating Earbuds such a standout — they manage to hit all three points very effectively. Available in three sizes (S, M, L) for varied ear shapes and in a requisite variety of colours, the Ergofit buds are also attached to a practical tangle-free cord slider.

Panasonic touts the buds as providing high-quality sound performance due to "virtual cavity technology," something that's probably not nearly as vulgar as it sounds. While there are plenty of good-quality buds that are expensive, and many bad-quality ones on

the cheap, these little guys are, for once, the right quality at the right price.

Pioneer iPod Digital Video System
\$499

Not for the weak of wallet or faint of heart, Pioneer's powerful iPod docking station is the iPod dock to

end all other iPod docks. While it's certainly not cheap, this high-end offering will let you go beyond simply pumping up the volume on your iPod's music playback by turning your iPod into the primary entertainment device in your home. Besides the great sound quality from the 2.1 channel full range speaker system with subwoofer, the station can also be connected to an LCD or Plasma TV to share movies and photos stored on your iPod. You can even transmit music to the station wirelessly from your iPod as well, meaning you can play DJ from any room in your home. Pioneer has a great reputation for sound quality and the iPod Digital Video System does not disappoint.



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**Holiday Shopping Guide**

Jingles to make the holidays feel merry

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada



If you're one of the many Christmas-loving music fan out there, fall must be your favourite season of the year.

Besides many big-named artists putting out albums before the New Year, a sundry of Christmas and holiday discs also make their way into stores. Here's a list of some of the best holiday records of 2009:

**Sting
If On A
Winter's Night**

A word of warning: Sting's winter-themed record isn't meant for your Christmas Eve gathering with the family. There are no sunny holiday tunes, or cuddle-by-the-fire ballads — instead it's a very serious song set of eerie lullabies and carols from the British Isles. The tunes are filled with haunting strings — violins, harps and mandolins — Gaelic words (and English ones too) and plenty of hymnal arrangements. It's engaging, thought provoking and, may be the most interesting holiday disc of the bunch.

**Bob Dylan:
Christmas
in the Heart**

When most people found out Bob Dylan was tackling a Christmas album, the shock was palatable. After all, he's a legendary folk singer who's linked more

with 60s protesters than Santa's elves. But the disc is actually quite good. Sure, it's definitely strange — Little Drummer Boy doesn't have the same elegance when Dylan's gravely voice gets a hold of it — but how awesome is it to hear this legend sing a rollicking version of Here Comes Santa Claus? A stocking stuffer for sure.

**Various
Artists
A Very Special
Christmas 7**

A Very Special Christmas was first introduced 22 years ago and it's still going strong. Its seventh version will appeal to the youngsters in your family — tween-oriented superstars like Miley Cyrus, Ashley Tisdale and Vanessa Hudgens all contribute to the disc. While some performers may be a bit surprising, i.e. Gossip Girl's Leighton Meester, the songs are all familiar. Sean Kingston's Little Drummer Boy, Cyrus' Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree and Carrie Underwood's Hark! The Herald Angels Sing are standouts.

**Jackson 5
Ultimate Christmas
Collection**

It's no surprise that the Jackson clan wants to continue selling records in the wake of Michael's death. Fortunately, this isn't just a quickly culled

together disc. It was originally released in the '70s and features funky versions of a number of Christmas classics. The soulful take on Santa Claus is Coming to Town is especially memorable, while the dance-ready rendition of Up in the

Housetop should get your whole family gathering on their feet. Bonus tracks on the release include the MJ tune Little Christmas Tree, season greetings from Michael, Tito, Jermaine and Jackie and other stripped down remixes.

**Beach Boys
Christmas Harmonies**

The Beach Boys are best known for their fun in the sun, but with their rich harmonies and penchant for sleigh bells, it's a wonder they weren't a winter band. This release combines two holiday discs — The Beach

Boys' Christmas Album and Merry Chrismas from the Beach Boys. There are standards here — Santa Claus is Coming to Town, I'll be Home for Christmas — but there's plenty of original tracks as well. The warm Little Saint Nick is probably their most famous.

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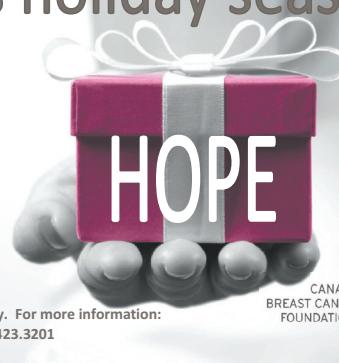
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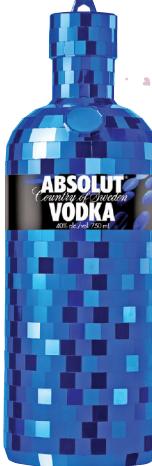
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Holiday Shopping Guide

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Humour Coaster Set, \$4.99. Sayings include "Uncork the Merry" and "Shake Your Sugar Plums." Available at Hallmark, hallmark.ca.

Cocktail mixers, \$7.99 each, at HomeSense. For more, call 1-866-466-3707 or visit homesense.ca



Red Mosaic Cocktail Shaker, \$29.95, and Red Mosaic Champagne Bucket, \$36.95, at Pier 1 Imports. For more, go to pier1.ca.



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Silicone pepper mill, \$29.99 and \$39.99, by McEwan by Fresco. Comes in black, white or aubergine. Available at Sears. Go to sears.ca for more.



Musical Snowman Cookie Spatula, \$9.99. Spatula plays We Wish You A Merry Christmas. Available at Hallmark, hallmark.ca.

Christmas Cookie Exchange Tray, \$14.99 at Hallmark, hallmark.ca.



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EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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23

Canadian Pride

Show some Canadian pride and hang a knitted buffalo check elk-embossed ornament on your tree this year. Wal-Mart, \$2.96, walmart.ca.

EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA



Non-traditional colours can be just as festive as red and green while adding a modern touch. Sears, 2.5" ribbon, \$6.99; ornaments, \$7.99 for a two-pack of 90-mm balls; and \$12.99 for a six-pack of 75-mm balls, sears.ca.

Homes in Style

Stock up on stockings

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

Knitted, stitched, beaded and glittered, this year hanging your stockings with care has never looked so pretty.

"Stockings are becoming nicer and nicer and more important to Christmas decor people are into decorating their homes (for the holidays) more than ever," says Ann Marie Favot, design editor for Style at Home. "From glitz glam to more traditional red and white versions ... with so many different types available, they can now match anybody's decor."

Stockings bring an important decorative element to a room, whether they're hung down the staircase banister or in a row along the mantle piece.

"The most interesting way I've seen them displayed was on the backs of dining room chairs. That way on Christmas morning when everyone sits down for breakfast, they have their stockings right there."



1. Handcrafted from New Zealand wool, these **playful felt stockings** are fun and festive. Teatro Verde, \$34.95, teatrorverde.com. 2. Each **knit stocking** is nearly three feet long giving you ample present-stuffing space. Teatro Verde, \$34.95, teatrorverde.com. 3. A **simple holiday message** in simple holiday red and white. Indigo, \$19.99, chapters.indigo.ca. 4. Put your peacock feathers on display with **shimmering satin stockings** in rich royal hues. Wal-Mart, \$9.96, walmart.ca.

Bring the cottage to you this Christmas. **Log cabin ornaments**, \$14.95, Teatro Verde, teatrorverde.com.

Don't forget about the tree!

Sorting through the boxes of Christmas tree decorations every year is like taking a Christmas Carol trip through Christmases past.

"My favourite part of decorating the tree is the reminiscing that happens as we unwrap each ornament and recall the story behind it (and) what happened that Christmas," says Austen Gilliland, editor of Make+Do, Canadian Living magazine's crafts blog. —EMMA YARDLEY



Felted decorations are a strong trend this season. **Wool ball ornaments**, small, \$3.99; and large, \$4.99, Indigo and Chapters, www.chapters.indigo.ca.



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**Elias
Metlej**

If you can't afford an investment property on your own, you may want to consider a partner. However, those con-

sidering a partnership should appreciate such a venture involves more than a combination of funds and resources.

Partnerships always stem from good intentions and common goals. When business is good, it is easy to make decisions and progress. However, business can quickly grind to a halt when partners disagree.

Whenever people are

buying an investment property together, we always recommend they enter into a partnership agreement. This contract addresses issues well beyond the distribution of profits and losses. It will dictate how the property will be managed on a day-to-day basis. From signing authority on checks to hiring policies, partnership agreements can cover every aspect of how the in-

vestment will be owned and managed.

Through a partnership agreement, investors can organize their business arrangements to suit their needs. An agreement should describe each partner's contribution, whether cash, land, or services, their authority and decision-making powers, as well as their management duties.

More importantly, part-

nership agreements also provide a framework for dispute resolution. Whether it is the death of a partner or a bankruptcy, the agreement can predetermine how the breakdown of the partnership must be handled.

One of the most important elements is an equation to calculate the value of a partnership interest. Predetermining what someone's share is worth

is extremely helpful upon the withdrawal of a partner or if the entire partnership is being dissolved.

Ultimately, each partner should receive independent legal advice to ensure their interests are properly addressed and protected by the partnership agreement.

Elias Metlej is a real estate lawyer with the Halifax firm Blais Nickerson & Bryson. You can write to Elias at askelias@yahoo.com

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Disorganized office, disorganized life

HomeScape



metronews.ca/homescape

Do you find yourself forgetting appointments, missing deadlines and losing contact information? Do you frequently spend time looking for files and important papers?

Let's be brutally honest here. Could it be because your office and papers are disgracefully disorganized? Could it be because you avoid filing like the plague? Could it be that your information management system is just not functional?

Well, don't despair. It's not you (that's what I tell myself anyway), it's your information storage methods that are the problem, and these can be fixed.

Essentially, what you need is a place for everything, and everything in its place. And this applies whether you file paper or electronically, or a combination of both.

There are several impor-



With a few quick tips, a clean office is within reach.

tant elements you must have in your work. One that is absolutely necessary is a working and accessible schedule. Use it as soon as you make the appointment or set the deadline, and consult it several times a day.

In many businesses, another important requirement is for quick access to contact information. Have an accessible card filing system in place to store business cards, and make a point of promptly entering important contacts in-

to mobile phones.

Finally, you must also file or put away working or completed files, so you can find them quickly. That is, after all, why you file.

Here are some additional tips to help keep your business running smoothly:

- Keep notes in one place, either on a pad by the phone or in an electronic file.
- Use a master to-do list every day.

• Keep things that you use frequently close-by, and things you need less often on higher shelves.

- Label files, and consider labeling the inside of drawers and shelves. Then, follow your rules and store things appropriately.
- If you keep electronic files, back up regularly.
- Ensure you have enough space for all required storage.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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SPECIAL FOCUS ON:**Holiday Party Wear****25**

Style

**Fashion fix-it kit**

Avert fashion disasters at any black tie affair with **My Tagalongs' Little Black Distress Kit**. It contains two sponges for removing deodorant stains, one pair of stay-up stockings, a set of four on-the-go, individually-wrapped wipes: makeup, nail, deodorant, personal care and a pair of foot cushions to help her put her best foot forward. The LBD Kit retails for \$25 and is available on mytagalongs.com at the Bay and specialty boutiques across Canada.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Sparkle and shine

Colourful dresses & bold accessories rule this holiday season

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

Strapless, draped or tunic, at the knee or shorter, pretty party frocks claim the after-five spotlight this holiday season.

Colour makes a bold festive statement. Vibrant shades of pink, purple, red, orange and yellow are cheerful antidotes to corporate dressing as well as earily nightfall. "At the moment there's no hotter colour than blue," notes fashion stylist Afifa Francisco (TheStyleHouse.ca), who appears regularly on Breakfast Television and CityLine to talk chic. "Stella McCartney, Balmain and Ungaro all showed different shades of this hue."

Rich fabrics such as velvet and brocade are event appropriate, as well as shimmering silky textures. Sequins in particular are enjoying quite the renaissance — nothing says shindig more than sparkle and shine. And of course the trusty little black dress is still a staple, but it's about more than basic black — amp up the style with architectural details such as artful and unusual pleating and draping, says Francisco.

Styling Tips

Cocktail attire this season is undeniably feminine — but not dainty. Anchor flirty dresses with shoes of consequence — ankle booties, platform pumps or strappy platform sandals — to keep the look modern. Big, statement jewelry also adds impact, especially if you opt for an LBD rather than a jewel-toned ensemble.

Keep proportions in mind when it comes to the right fit. Bustier cuts add curve appeal to small frames; v-necklines, wrap waists, shoulder straps and one-shoulder styles complement the more generously endowed. Emphasize the smallest part of your torso, and go for hem that hit the knees or just above, adds Francisco.

Accessories

Just like the season's dresses, its accessories are all about colour, sparkle and statement details. Embellished shoes and evening bags are everywhere, and according to Francisco, jewelry is huge. "Bold, oversize, chunky is the way to go — earrings, necklaces, cuffs and bracelets, just not all at once," she says. "Industrialized metals are also particularly relevant."

Try bold earrings and a bejewelled clutch with a vibrant dress — even a sequined one — or an in-your-face necklace and sparkle shoes if you're wearing black. Do wear a watch with more than one bangle, and on the other hand snag attention with your most fabulous cocktail ring.

Blue strapless cocktail dress (H&M, \$59.95).

Blue is hot this holiday season



Blue jersey bubble dress (Dynamite, \$32.90).



One shoulder red dress with brooch, \$149.95; gem cuff, \$75; fringe earrings, \$39.95. Available at Le Chateau stores across Canada.



Aldo Valtorta clutch, \$50.



Moonscape dress (French Connection, \$198).



Statement ring from Aldo made with crystallized Swarovski elements (\$60. aldoaccessories.com).



Black sleeveless ruffle front dress (Jacob, \$89).



Magenta sleeveless v-neck short taffeta dress, \$235; loop earrings with faceted beads, \$24; fireball stretch ring, \$18. Items available at select Melanie Lyne stores. Call 1-877-973-6090 or visit melanielyne.com

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Dressing for every occasion

Men: Focus on classic looks for holiday functions, says designer

BRIAN COLLUTON
for Metro Canada



Sir, please step away from that same (untucked) striped shirt and pair of jeans you rolled into last year's holiday party wearing.

Not only was that look never really in style (sorry), but with a continued focus on classic looks this winter, "if you look good, then you'll get laid!" laughs Melissa Austria, founder of Toronto lifestyle store GotStyle Menswear.

Seriously, though, in an unceasingly image-conscious society, Austria asks, "If it only takes a little bit more of an effort, why wouldn't you try to look a little bit better?" But to be the toast under the mistletoe, you don't need to blow your whole holiday bonus (if such a thing still exists). For holiday season soirees, Austria recommends two key closet additions: a white, slim-fit, French cuff shirt and a tuxedo jacket.

Remember, when choosing an accent colour, Austria says pur-

ple is the new pink. But if these tools don't finish the job themselves, here's her environment-specific advice:

Work Parties

"When you dress too casual for a work function, it sends off the wrong message," says Austria, "Because your boss is still going to be there, you still want to have a bit of formality." A suit or blazer combination is a must,

she says, tie optional.

Family Functions

Since you're around the people who know you best, Austria encourages striking a balance between casual and smart. "A sweater and shirt combination is a nice look," she says, "You can still dress up a sweater and shirt by putting a knit tie with it."

Social Festivities

"You want to be a little funkier, in a sense, because you never know what friends are going to be there and you might meet somebody new," says Austria. She suggests a simple collared shirt and vest for comfort with style.

Purple is the new pink when it comes to accent colours this season. Pictured right: Harry Rosen purple dress shirt, \$265.



Sculptz Shapewear shaper top shorts, \$30-\$33, come in small to XXL sizes.

Streamline your outfit with comfy shapewear

UNDERGARMENTS Your party dress is the perfect fit... all you need is just a little lift here and a little tuck there.

Get that streamline look without the discomfort of the yesteryear's girdle garments with Sculptz Shapewear's shaper top shorts (\$30 to \$33).

Launched in Canada at LG Fashion Week this past October, the brand focuses on comfortable shape wear that is designed to accent curves, slim down the tummy, hips and thigh areas and lift the butt.

The shorts, made of 75 per cent nylon and 25 per cent spandex, will also eliminate panty lines — promising a sleek and smooth silhouette under any evening wear fabric.

Like the line's leg wear, the shaper shorts come in various playful and chic shades, including hot pink, purple and orange (in addition to the standard black and nude).

Sculptz products are available in small to XXL sizes and are sold at select Sears and Addition Elle stores as well as online at Sculptz.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

A Little Charm Goes a Long Way



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The Sonia Rykiel for H&M lingerie collection debuts this Saturday.

Rykiel goes lacey for H&M

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News



The colors pink and black aren't typically associated with the holiday season. But you won't be able to escape them this month, when the Sonia Rykiel for H&M line hits stores.

The pretty, feminine collection, which was largely designed by Sonia's daughter Nathalie, includes delicate slips, nightgowns and camisoles, with a dose of the Rykiel brand's trademark cheekiness. It's the first time a guest designer has created a lingerie line for the brand.

Later in 2010, the Sonia Rykiel partnership will continue with a knitwear collection and children's line. But first, there is the business of lacy, little night things to tend to.

"I thought about what I would like to wear. I wanted it to be sophisticated, lingerie that would appeal to all types of women. There's no age target. It's just really sexy," explains Nathalie. "I especially love the satin series that we did, which is a bit '30s. It's all very coquettish, tone and elasticity," says Geraldine Scherrer, a chemist for Kiehl's.

In addition to select H&M stores, the lingerie collection will be available at Sonia Rykiel stores.

Editors' Pick

DAMAGE CONTROL



Kiehl's Açaí
Damage-Repairing
Serum (\$74)

Sit down, blueberry! Açaí has officially replaced you as the antioxidant of the moment. Now the superfruit is being touted as a skin saviour too.

EXPERT Caitlin Callahan, senior artist for M.A.C. ● Apply a highlighter to browbones, cheeks and the inner corner of the eyes. Sweep a dusty-rose blush across the cheekbones. ● Line the eye with a liquid black eyeliner. Start at the inner corner, and add a slight swoop at the end to create a subtle cat's eye. Follow with several coats of mascara. For more drama, apply false lashes. ● Finish by creating an intense lip: Use a brush to apply a creamy rich red or burgundy shade.

Vasanti Cosmetics Lipstick in USA (\$15); Maybelline New York Color Sensational Lipstick in Very Cherry (\$10)



ELLE To read these stories and more, visit: ellecanada.com

HOLLYWOOD HOT LOOKS

In brief

GOODWILL Do something good for your "sole." Goodwill Industries and Sherson Group have teamed up to offer Canadian women the chance to bring their favourite 'previously loved' shoes, boots or handbags to any Nine West, Easy Spirit, Nine West Shoe Studio or Madison Shoes & Accessories store and get \$20 off any \$100 purchase. All donations received at these stores, including gently used children's shoes and boots, will be given to the local Goodwill outlet in each market, to support its job training and employment services. The campaign runs until Dec. 13, 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

No sex on Lopez tape

Remember all those reports about a Jennifer Lopez sex tape? Well, it turns out it's just pretty much a tape, sans sex. On Tuesday, a judge ruled Lopez's ex-husband, Ojani Noa, cannot use personal footage he recorded of the couple in a "documentary" he's making. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Jacksoul's last is best

Late Haydain Neale put heart and soul into new album

Jacksoul

Album: SOULmate
Label: Sony Music
Rating:

THESE TEN TRACKS were built around demo vocal tracks that Haydain Neale recorded shortly before a tragic 2007 traffic accident. Fortunately, Neale's near-perfect pitch and natural inclination to put heart and soul into every project, left us vocals as good as anything he had previously recorded. His voice has that old school sweetness we came to expect of classic singers like Smokey Robinson. Despite the terrible emotional circumstances under which the band completed this album, SOUL-



mate is not a rush job. It contains all new Haydain Neale compositions, recorded with the same painstaking care that Jacksoul put into all four of its previous albums. Neale, who died just 10 days before SOULmate's release, has left us with an album that will go down as the band's best.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Allison Iraheta

Album: Just Like You
Label: Sony Music
Rating:

WELCOME TO CHAPTER three of this year's American Idol trilogy. We heard first the soon-to-be forgotten disc from winner Kris Allen, followed by the

**AlbumReviews**

music@metronews.ca

shock of a well-positioned wet one from the lips of Adam Lambert. Now it's the debut from irresistible No. 3 Idolist, Allison Iraheta. The Idol production and writing team — featuring once again the undeniable hit-making sensibilities of go-to guys like Max Martin and Kara Dioguardi — has decided to position the red-headed rocker into the role of hyper-active punk princess. That's never an easy path to follow since punk is an attitude and attitude is something almost impossible to manufacture without appearing plastic. It also seems to conflict with Iraheta's natural gift, the whiskey-aged

voice of a classic roots rocker a la Melissa Etheridge. Still her considerable talents will give Iraheta another shot to forge her own identity.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

R. Kelly

Album: Untitled
Label: Jive/Sony Music
Rating:

THERE'S ONE THING you need to know about R. Kelly: He loves sex. Here are just a smattering of the choice lyrics on his latest smooth R&B effort: "Girl



you make me wanna get you pregnant," "I called your boss and he knows you ain't coming in today (sex in the morning, sex all day)," "Text me back something

freaky," "Sex that we're having here girl, ohh, this is, this is number one." That's pretty much all you need to know about this disc.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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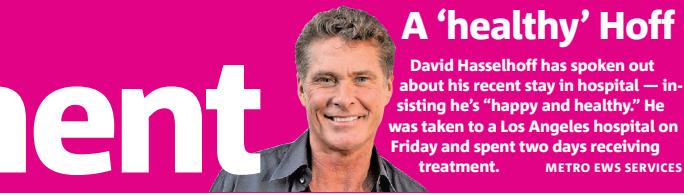
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**A 'healthy' Hoff**

David Hasselhoff has spoken out about his recent stay in hospital — insisting he's "happy and healthy." He was taken to a Los Angeles hospital on Friday and spent two days receiving treatment. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

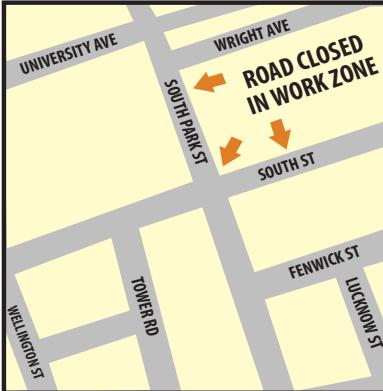
***** A CLASSIC; ***** EXCELLENT; *** GOOD; ** FAIR; * POOR



SOULmate is the new album from R&B group Jacksoul. Frontman Haydain Neale, above, died in hospital 10 days before its release.

you make me wanna get you pregnant," "I called your boss and he knows you ain't coming in today (sex in the morning, sex all day)," "Text me back something

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

**Southend Halifax Road Construction**

Attention motorists, road work at the intersection of South and South Park Streets has partially closed the intersection, as well as sections of South and South Park Streets.

The duration of construction is approximately 3 weeks. This work is to allow for the installation of new water and sewer lines.

Traffic travelling east on South St. is required to turn right on South Park St. There are no left turns on to South Park St. There are no left or right turns on to South Park St. for traffic west bound on South Street.

South Park St. is closed from South St. north (inbound) to the area just south (outbound) of the VG Hospital parking lot entrance. Pedestrian access will be maintained. There is no on street parking in the work zone.

Please note, all shops and services adjacent to the work zone will remain open during the construction period.

Municipal service disruptions, if required, will be kept to a minimum duration and affected residents and businesses will be notified in advance. Experienced traffic control personnel will be on-site to ensure smooth traffic flow. On site personnel will also maintain communication with local residents and businesses to help minimize disruption.

The hours of work will be Monday to Friday 7:00am to 6:00pm, with weekends as required. We apologize for any inconvenience this necessary work may cause.

Please note, the intersection of Fenwick and South Park Streets is open.

For more information please visit www.halifaxwater.ca or contact Steve Hogan, 240-1289 or James Campbell, 490-4604.



The Simpsons celebrate 20th birthday

On Sunday, Jan. 10, The Simpsons will air its 450th episode, with guest star Anne Hathaway. It will be followed by an hourlong special, The Simpsons 20th Anniversary Special: in 3-D! On Ice, hosted by Morgan Spurlock. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment in brief

LAWsuit A federal judge has dismissed a defamation lawsuit filed against Dixie Chick Natalie Maines by the

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This Holiday season, The Body Shop introduces luxurious seasonal bath & body and home fragrance collections, bursting with naturally-derived ingredients in three festive fragrances; Black Velvet Apricot, Nutmeg & Vanilla and Merry Cranberry. Many of the ingredients in these seasonal ranges are sourced through The Body Shop Community Trade program so that you can feel good about giving.

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No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 10, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

metronews.ca

Polanski house arrest starts Friday

After more than two months in a Swiss jail, Roman Polanski will be placed under house arrest at his Alpine chalet on Friday, authorities said.

The 76-year-old director must stay in the house and wear an electronic bracelet as officials decide whether to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl, the authorities said.

"Polanski will be transferred on Friday to Gstaad," said Folco Galli, the Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman. He said the filmmaker could be in his home by early afternoon.

Galli said Wednesday that he would not comment further until Polanski was delivered to the chalet.

The director of such film classics as *Rosemary's Baby*, *Chinatown* and *The Pianist* won a decision last week granting him bail, but was being held by authorities until he paid the full \$4.5 million demanded by court. Swiss standards differ from countries such as the United States, where bail bondsmen often post a



Roman Polanski will begin his house arrest Friday after spending two months in a Swiss jail. Polanski paid a bail of \$4.5 million.

percentage of the total.

Polanski has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles want him returned to be sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

He has been held at a jail

cused of raping the 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modelling shoot in 1977. He was indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molestation and sodomy, but he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sent him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. The evaluator released Polanski after 42 days, but the judge said he was going to send him back to serve out the 90 days.

The filmmaker fled the U.S. on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was to be formally sentenced. He has lived since then in France, which does not extradite its citizens.

Polanski claims that the U.S. judge and prosecutors acted improperly in his case. His attorneys will argue before a California appeals court in December that the charges should be dismissed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in Winterthur, near Zurich, where recent visitors have included his Swiss lawyer and the French general consul. But it was unclear if he will be transferred directly from Winterthur to Gstaad, or taken somewhere else first to be fitted with the electronic monitoring device.

Polanski was initially ac-

	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time	31	31	31	ABC	News Center 5	ABC Wld News	Holiday Lights	FlashForward "A561984"	Private Practice (N)	Private Pract.		
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	Private Practice (N)	Fringe "Snakehead" (N)	Private Pract.		
	11	11	11	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Secret World of Shoplifting	The Border "Dying Art"	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Union-force	Virginia (SC)	Gars, fille	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)	Les Années Derome (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Survivor: Samoa (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	The Mentalist	
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	La Flèvre de la danse (SC)	Dieu Merci (HDTV) (N) (SC)	Dir. House (HDTV) (SC)	TVA nouvelles	News Final (N)	
	6	6	6	CIFH	Entertainment ET Canada	90210 (HDTV) (N)	Survivor: Samoa (N)	Survivor: Samoa (N)	The Office (N)	The Office	News	
	9	9	9	CJCH	The Vampire Diaries	The Mentalist (HDTV)	FlashForward "A561984"	Community TV	Community Matters			
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television				Fringe "Snakehead" (N)	Fox First		
news	36	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV) (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock	Jay Leno Show	
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Parks/Recreat	CBC News: The National	Naturel Things	
	29	29	29	NW	(6) Power & Politics	Connect Today's biggest stories (N)	Greater Boston	Viewers' Favorites				
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt	Worldfocus	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s		Rock and Roll		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Taxi payant (N)	Rire et dérire	Fringe (SC)	Catherine (SC)	Bob Gratto	Le Mur (N)	
	68	68	68	TQS	Guerra clans	Le Mur (SC)	Market Call Tonight	Pinks All Out (HDTV)	Squeeze Play		Business News	
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight	Campbell Brown (N)	Larry King Live (N)			
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation-Room/Wol Blitzer	CNN Tonight (N)						
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	PGA Tour Golf	Chevron World Challenge -- First Round. (HDTV) From Thousand Oaks, Calif.		PGA Tour Golf			
sports	52	52	52	RSE	Connected W-Prime Time	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Conn.	NFL Football Buffalo Bills vs. New York Jets. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.				
	55	55	55	SCOR	HSR	Covers Experts	Score on NFL	Score Today	Drafted Live	College Football Oregon State at Oregon.		
	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Pinks Outtakes	Jacked!	Wrecked		
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Salt Lake	NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at San Antonio Spurs. (HDTV) (Live)			
	43	43	43	FAM	Han Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Oversold? (N)	Han Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz
	44	44	44	TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Stoked	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill
	26	26	26	TREE	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin's Magic Christmas	Night Grdn	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar
	27	27	27	YT	iCarly	iCarly	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malco-Mid	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like
	16	16	16	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malco-Mid	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	Family Biz
family	70	70	APTN	APTN National News (N)	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	Overruled? (N)	Han Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)	Movie Special	That's Hockey!	Pinks Outtakes	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill
	37	37	37	BRVO	Wind at My Back	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Hoodlum *** (1997, Crime/Drama)	Renovation	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	
	25	25	25	CMT	Wilsons	Wilsons	Funniest Home Videos	Hoodlum *** (1997, Crime/Drama)	House Hunters	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	
	49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box
	153	153	153	COURT	Truth, Duty, Valor	Struggle for Justice	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Psychic Detect	Haunting Evid.	Justice	
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)	Life (N)	Holmes Inspection	Renovation	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Ancient Discoveries	Underworld Histories	After People		
	46	46	46	HIST	Underworld Histories	Ice Road Truckers	Secret Life of American Teen	Secret Life of American Teen	Secret Life of American Teen	House Hunters		
cable variety	17	17	17	MM	Secret Life of American Teen	Secret Life of American Teen	Secret Life of American Teen	Secret Life of American Teen	House Hunters			
	19	19	19	MMM	mmpop10.ca	The Daily Fix	Ranked!	Mariyah Carey: Mimi	House Hunters			
	201	201	201	M1	Sharkwater *** (2006, Documentary)	Toronto Stories (2008, Drama)		Powder Blue (2009, Drama)	Jessica Biel.			
	48	23	OLN	Mantracker	Ghost Hunters International	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman	Ghost Hunters			
	51	51	51	PEACH	The Office	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.		
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:30) Scream of Stone	(8:15) Bend of the River *** (1982, Western)	Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)	Bad Boys *** (1995, Action)	RDI économie		
	67	67	67	RDI	monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Le Téléjournal (SC)	Bad Boys *** (1995, Action)	RDI économie		
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits	Da Vinci's City Hall	Found.	Paradise Falls	Saving Grace	
	40	40	40	SLICE	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Rich Bride, Poor Bride	X-Weighted "Reebokah"	X-Weighted "Jen"	X-Weighted	Eureka	
cable variety	47	47	47	SPACE	StarGate SG-1	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	Star Trek: Voyager	Primal				
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)	TNA Wrestling (HDTV) (N)					
	98	98	STAR	etalk	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)	The View (HDTV) (N)	Dr. Oz Show		
	21	21	21	TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper (N)	BBQ Pit		
	56	34	34	TROP	Bob & Doug	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits	ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	
	20	20	20	TV5	Que-champion	Journal de Fr2	Transsaharienne-René Carrilé	Club social	Complément d'enquête			
	28	28	28	V	Joz-H "Smile" (DVS)	Murder, She Wrote	Cold Case	Missing "Paper Anniversary"	The Closer	Cold Case		
	60	97	97	VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest							
	22	22	22	W	House-Sell	Confidential	Friends	Friends	He Sees You When You're Sleeping (2002, Suspense)	Under the Mist		
	251	251	251	WGN	WGN Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries	Supernatural (HDTV)	WGN News		

critics' corner

The Mentalist

As Lisbon (Robin Tunney) and the team investigate the murder of a state senator's intern, Jane (Simon Baker) concentrates on finding out what new information has been uncovered on the Red John case. Gregory Itzin ("24") and George Wyner guest star. 8 PM on CJCH; 11 PM on CBS



The Secret World of Shoplifting

It's not just teenagers slipping lipsticks into their purses. This new documentary reveals that consumer demand for low prices has helped turn shoplifting into big business and for some, a career. Even organized crime is getting involved. People on both sides of the law — including reformed thieves who now counsel shoplifters and consult with police — explain what's being done to fight it. 8 PM on CBC

The Office

Ho, ho, no! Michael (Steve Carell) must tell the truth when he realizes he cannot keep a promise he made to a group of kids 10 years ago, while Jim (John Krasinski) tries to boost staff morale by launching an employee of the month program. Jenna Fischer, Rainn Wilson and Ed Helms also star in the new episode "Scott's Tots." 10 PM on CIHF. NBC



For December 2nd

- Aleesia - Bubble Gum
- Rihanna Ft Young Jeezy - Hard
- Hedley - Don't Talk To Strangers
- Down With Webster - Rich Girl\$
- Lady Gaga - Bad Romance
- Owl City - Fireflies
- IYAZ - Replay
- Ke\$ha - Tik Tok
- David Guetta Ft Akon - Sexy Chick

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Signature Drink:
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Signature Dish:
Steak & Frites
Rating:
Dinner & drinks for 2: \$75

An enticing aroma greets us as we enter Little Europe in the Hydrostone. Owned by the Hamachi Group, one of HRM's dining success stories, it a small, charming restaurant with intriguing European scenes on the walls.

We sip a local red wine, Grand Pre's Leon Millot (\$21 half litre), while nibbling on our Calamari (\$8.95) appetizer. Lightly breaded and flash fried, it's tender and delicious, served with pesto aioli.

My pal chooses the Prawn and Chorizo Farfalle (\$15.95). This bow-tie shaped pasta is tossed with spicy Spanish sausage, prawns, peppers and goat cheese as well as the house tomato sauce. It's first rate.

Although less exciting,



Above, Half Chicken with Jus (\$11.95); right, Prawn and Chorizo Farfalle (\$15.95)



— Italian Tiramisu (\$5.95), a light sponge cake concoction with chocolate, coffee and mascarpone cheese.

The service is excellent and not rushed so we happily linger in Little Europe.

**Global Peasant:**

- Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of butternut squash and apple soup.

Dining out

FINDING SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

A group of dedicated marine biologists has just officially launched an easy-to-use, updateable website that helps the conscientious consumer find restaurants and retailers in HRM offering sustainable seafood. Visit yourchoicehalifax.ca

AWARD WINNERS

The NS Association of Chefs and Cooks awards for 2009: Partner of the Year: Big Eric's Equipment Supplies; Establishment: NSCC Akerley Campus; Culinarian: Chef Peter Devar, NSCC Kingstech Campus; Chef: Chef Luis Clavel, Holiday Inn Harbourview.

In brief

THEATRE Little House on the Causeway is being presented at the Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, 1505 Barrington St. until Dec. 22. Cost is \$48.25 per person. Call 420-1840.

SPICE Peggy Jenkinson of Chicken Tandoor Indian Spice Blends of Hubbards has added a new blend to her line-up: Masaman Masala is available at her booth at the Halifax Farmers' Market.



Calamari (\$8.95).

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Celebrity Buzz

Family Ties mom Baxter comes out | Motherhood on Portman's 'radar'

WELCOME HOME Most people know Meredith Baxter as Elyse Keaton, everyone's favorite mom from the hit '80s sitcom Family Ties. But now the actress reveals to People that she's ready for the world to see her in a different — and surprising — way: "I'm a lesbian mom," she says.

Before Baxter, 62, first started dating women seven years ago, the thought of being gay "had never crossed my mind,"



people.com quotes her as saying. Having been in three failed marriages to men (most famously to actor David Birney), she says of her many difficult years before coming out, "I was never comfortable with myself." But she's quick to add, "That doesn't mean I was questioning."

People reports she is now in a four-year relationship with building contractor Nancy Locke — the couple

have lived together for two years — the actress, who continues to act and run a skincare company, says, "I feel like I'm being honest for the first time." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Are Mayer and Lohan new drinking buddies?

JUST HIS LUCK John Mayer has a new bar-hopping pal, apparently. The singer was spotted hanging out at New York nightclub Butter recently with Lindsay Lohan, according to E! News. But sources say Lohan seemed much more interested in hanging out with Mayer than vice-versa.

"She would follow his every move," a source

says. "He would dance with the waitresses and then come back. She was way into it." And while Mayer was spotted downing shot after shot of vodka, Lohan apparently abstained.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Eva Longoria 'delighted' with body

TOO BAD NOBODY WATCHES HER SHOW Eva Longoria goes to the gym four times a week in a bid to maintain her stunning figure, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Desperate Housewives actress — who was forced to laugh off rumours she was pregnant last year when she put on weight — knows regular exercise is the perfect way to keep off any unwanted pounds.

A source said: "Eva hits the gym four times a week for an hour each time, and it's certainly paying off. She's got a tiny frame and any weight gain shows, but right now she's looking great ... She's delighted with her figure."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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APPLICANTS CAN FORM A LINE HERE

It looks like motherhood may be on Natalie Portman's radar. The actress admits that it's something she's been thinking about, according to Hollyscoop. "I feel like I'm coming into my womanhood, and I'm less afraid or maybe I'm just getting

old," she says. "I think about having kids, but I think you can't plan for that sort of thing. It's not like you can work at it."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Aniston: yoga changed my life for the better

ANYTHING FOR HER FRIENDS

Jennifer Aniston says yoga changed her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The former Friends star appears in the introduction to Yogalosophy, a new workout DVD fronted by her friend and yoga instructor Mandy Ingber, and says she was amazed at the impact learning the discipline had on her.

In the short clip, she says: "She brought yoga

into my life. It completely changed my life.

"It's one of the most fun workouts I've ever had. So have fun and work hard because it will totally pay off."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Joe Simpson thinks the world wants his family to fail

WELL JOE, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE ALL SO GOOD AT IT Jessica Simpson's father claims the world wants his family to fail, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Joe Simpson, a former reverend — who manages both his famous daughters, Jessica Simpson and Ashlee Simpson-

Wentz — says people don't want to see them doing well and get joy when things go wrong.

He fumed to Us Weekly magazine: "We as a family are

under a lot pressure. People want to make us look bad and want us to fail."

Simpson claims the family wasn't concerned when Ashlee was dropped from US TV drama Melrose Place after just six months. He said:

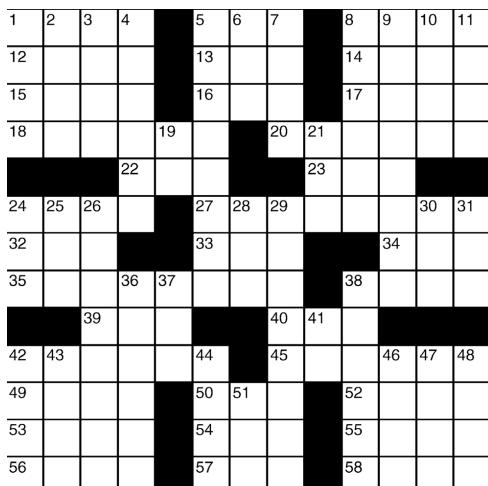
"It was never a loss. The world says whatever it says. The world, again, always wants to make it look like we're failures but we're really just a family that works hard."

METRO NEWS SERVICES





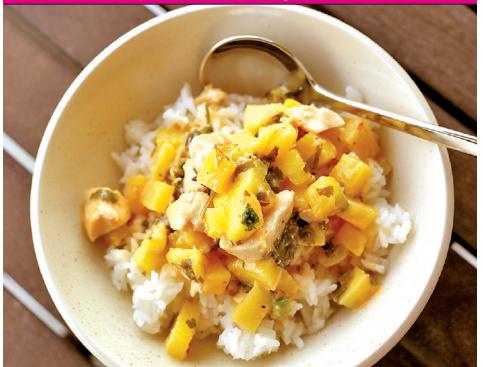
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five**ACROSS**

- 1 Truckload
5 Bill
8 Bat a gnat
12 Celestial bear
13 In olden times
14 Apiece
15 Clarinet insert
16 Sleep phenom
17 Ersatz swing
18 Lasso
20 Piece of lumber used for flooring (Brit.)
22 Ostrich's cousin
23 Apiece
24 "Desire Under the —"
27 Stronghold
32 — constrictor
33 Dillinger's foes (Abbr.)
34 Old French coin
35 Strengthen
38 Capri, for one
39 Former M&M's color
40 Discoverer's call
41 Back-related
- 45 Less of a mess
49 Help a hood
50 Chic no more
52 Notion
53 Got up
54 To and —
55 Coach Chuck, who won four Super Bowls
56 "Untouchables" role
57 "— the season ..."
58 Otherwise
- 1 Throw hard
2 Vicinity
3 Person at a PC
4 Half the audience?
5 Molière protagonist
6 Census statistic
7 Broadway flop
8 Large bird dog
9 Diner staffer
10 Farm fraction
11 As a result
19 Exist
21 Suitable

DOWN

- 26 Recede
25 Brock of baseball
26 Place to settle?
28 Old, like a wd.
29 Rice dishes
30 Scale member
31 Seek damages
36 Preferences
37 Genetics abbr.
38 Common antiseptic
41 Greeting
42 "Nuts!"
43 Bassoon kin
44 Barn section
46 "American —"
47 Congers, e.g.
48 Rough breathing sound
51 Spoon-bender Geller

Metro Recipe of the Day**Chicken Coconut Pineapple Curry**

Submitted by Alison Glasbergen, Victoria, BC

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into small chunks
1 inch piece of ginger, grated (a rasp grater works really well)
1 Can of coconut milk (shake can before opening - coconut milk settles over time)
2 Tablespoon thai red curry paste (thai red curry is quite mild, so use a bit more if you like things spicy)
2 green onions, chopped
1 1/2 Cup of fresh pineapple, cut into bite-size chunks
1/2 Cup cilantro, finely chopped
salt and pepper to taste
1 1/2 Cup jasmine rice, cooked according to package directions

METHOD:

- Heat oil in large frying pan over medium/low heat and add chicken, stirring often.
- Season lightly with salt and pepper.
- When chicken is no longer pink, reduce heat to low and add grated ginger and continue to cook for 1 minute.
- Add coconut milk and red curry paste, and stir until curry paste is dissolved.
- Increase heat to medium and gently simmer for 2 minutes, but do not let it come to the boil.
- Add green onions, pineapple chunks and stir to combine.
- Garnish with chopped cilantro and serve over a bowl of Jasmine rice.

SERVES 4**PREP TIME: 8 MINUTES****COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES****PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:**

S	P	U	D	P	I	P	S	O	T
A	O	N	E	A	L	A	T	R	O
P	O	T	B	E	L	L	A	N	W
S	H	O	A	T	S	L	I	P	O
S	A	L	T	A	N	I			
R	O	P	E	W	E	S	P	A	T
A	D	O	A	V	A	S	T	E	R
D	D	T	N	I	N	A	A	S	H
R	I	O	G	U	L	P			
T	H	O	R	N	S	S	P	O	I
S	O	A	K	P	A	N	D	O	W
A	P	S	E	A	G	O	S	E	R
R	E	T	D	R	E	D	E	S	S

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MARCH 21-APRIL 20

With the Sun moving through one of the best areas of your chart at the moment you can't fail to get your way. Enjoy your luck, but don't push it.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21

A positive outlook is a must today. Not that anything bad will happen but when small things go wrong you may think it's the end of the world. It's not.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21

A project which has been in a state of limbo for some time can now start moving forwards again. No more excuses: get to it!

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22

If you do something to excess today you will regret it over the weekend. In a nutshell: don't work too hard and don't risk your health.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23

The Sun's transit of the most dynamic sector of your chart means you have no doubts and no fears – just like most times really, only more so by far.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22

Keep your options open today, especially at work as this is where you are most likely to be let down by other people. Stay cool, calm and in control.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23

You need to rise above petty distractions and see the bigger picture. Your future is bright, no matter how dark it seems now.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

Today's events will urge you to raise your game and take more risks. It's not irresponsible to change if you've sick of doing the same old things

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

Not only did yesterday's full moon make you emotional but it also made you realize that honesty is essential at all times.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20

The Sun in Sagittarius at this time of year has a negative effect on your confidence but a lot of it is in the mind.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

You will have to fight for your rights against the odds today, but actually those odds are not nearly so bad as you appear to believe.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20

The more someone says you can trust them the more precautions you need to take. Don't let that happen.

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Today in history

1912: First Balkan War: The Naval Battle of Elli takes place.

1964: Berkeley Free Speech Movement: Police arrest over 800 students at the University of California, Berkeley, following their takeover and sit-in on UC property.

1976: An assassination attempt is made on Bob Marley. He is shot twice, but plays a concert two days later.

1997: In Ottawa, Canada, representatives from 121 countries sign The Ottawa treaty prohibiting manufacture and deployment of anti-personnel landmines.

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